

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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Dr. Thomas Munro, internationally known educator and Curator Emeritus of Education at the Cleveland Museum of Art, died Sunday, April 14, in Sarasota, Florida. He was 77 years old.

Dr. Munro, who had lived for the past seven years in Florida, made his home in Cleveland from 1931 until 1967, when he retired after a long and distinguished career of 35 years as head of the Department of Education at the Cleveland Museum. He also was Professor of Art at Western Reserve University from 1931 to 1967, and Chairman of the Division of Art at Western Reserve University from 1933 to 1950.

"Thomas Munro built the Department of Education at the Cleveland Museum into one of the most outstanding and exemplary in the country. He lead the way in so many aspects of art education -- for children, for adults, for university students," states Dr. Sherman E. Lee, Director of the Cleveland Museum.

"I have known him as a teacher and a friend since 1939," Dr. Lee adds. "He was an extraordinary man, gifted with that rare ability to make any discussion informative and lively, and to transmit his breadth of knowledge and interest in many different kinds of art to anyone."

Dr. Munro was among the first museum people in the country to recognize the significance of African art, Dr. Lee states, and he was among the earliest scholars to write on African art. In recent years, he was a generous donor of African and Oceanic art to the Cleveland Museum collection.

Thomas Munro was born February 15, 1897, in Omaha, Nebraska. He took his undergraduate work at Columbia University, and received his Ph.D. at

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Columbia under John Dewey. He began teaching philosophy there in 1918, then went to Philadelphia as associate educational director of the Barnes Foundation, devoted to modern art.

He taught at Rutgers University and New York University before coming to Cleveland in 1931. He received an honorary L.H.D. from Coe College (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) in 1955 and the Ursula Laurus Medal for Fine Arts from Ursuline College, Cleveland, in 1964.

He was a founder and the first president of the American Society for Aesthetics, and editor of the Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism from 1945 until 1963. He continued as Contributing Editor of the Journal from 1963 until his death.

Dr. Munro was the recipient of numerous honors, both national and international, including Chevalier and Officer, Legion of Honor (France), Benjamin Franklin Fellow, Royal Society of Arts (London), and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Munro also was the author of several books on art, aesthetics, and art education, the most recent of which are Form and Style in the Arts (1970), The Arts and their Interrelations (1949), Toward Science in Aesthetics (1956), Art Education: Its Philosophy and Psychology (1956), Evolution in the Arts and Other Theories of Culture History (1963), and Oriental Aesthetics (1965).

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